# MONTEREY NEWS

October 2020
Est. 1970 Vol. L · Number 10


Pick up at: the library (in and outside), firehouse pavilion, Bracken Brae farm stand, & transfer station

*Join friends and neighbors to light up the village during the darkest time of the year. See page 5, Bright Lights for Monterey.*
*—Streetscape by Lenny Weber*

It would be best for us to leave the city, …but we don't really have to, as long as we can still hear the moose within, or the dragonfly, the bat, the ring-necked snake.
The Wild Within pages 18-19

The Monterey United Church of Christ and the Monterey Council on Aging are launching a pilot program—Pantry PickUp.
Pantry Pickup page 9

Some of the best crops were the new friendships that grew out of a common goal.
Monterey Community Garden page 16

Approximately 8,595 pounds of tomatoes; 1,875 dozen equaling 22,500 ears of corn
Bracken Brae Farmstand page 13

The gold around here isn't so much under the ground as it is on top and visible to the eye.
Seeking Gold page 20

The Roadside page 10

In a most unusual election year, it seemed helpful to create a voting information guide for the Town of Monterey.
November Elections page 4

They agreed to flow (flood) their land to a height not to exceed two drill holes…on Bull Head Rock.
Lake Garfield Dam pages 22-23

Commonwealth Catalog reopened. ComCat is the combined collections of the libraries in Massachusetts.
Monterey Library Notes page 8

"Why don't you try to start the car and I'll honk the horn?"
Town Government at Work page 11

We are always asked, "What do I do with oil paint and other hazardous items?" A pickup will be held on Saturday, October 24.
Transfer Station page 23

"For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger, something better, pushing right back."
In the Midst page 25

**Daylight Savings Time**
**"Falls Behind"**
**Sunday, November 1, at 2 a.m.**

A special town meeting scheduled for Saturday, October 24, at 2 p.m., at the firehouse pavilion.
In My View page 2

Tryon's been involved in many incidents where the outcome was determined by such slim margins, but we can improve the odds for positive outcomes by what we do.
Fire Safety page 6

Susan Sellew commented, "Even though I live so far back in that I won't be able to afford the service, sending a deposit to get the percent up is the least we can do for our neighbors."
51% and Positive Comments page 12

I never thought it was even possible but it happened, and I hope to catch an even greater size fish in the lake. Keep fishin'! And Tight Lines!!!
Mike the Pike! page 14

## In My View

**Special Town Meeting**
**October 24**

On the immediate horizon is a special town meeting scheduled for Saturday, October 24, at 2 p.m., at the firehouse pavilion. The finance committee and a majority of the select board will be asking for permission to purchase two trucks for the highway department and sell one of its older trucks. As Shawn Tryon made clear, those truck purchases are critical to his continued ability to keep our roads safe and well-maintained. The total purchase price is about $400,000 and would be made under a state contract. We will be recommending that about half the cost come from the general stabilization fund with the rest being borrowed. It is critical that we act now because the state contract expires in November and prices are most likely to rise substantially under the new state contract. We had originally planned to include these purchases in the regular town meeting warrant in June. Then Covid-19 struck, and we decided that it was prudent to wait until we could fully assess any possible impact of that disease on our finances. We've made that assessment, and prudence and common sense dictate that now is the time to act. Although Mr. Weingold voted against this proposal, I'm hopeful that by the time the special town meeting occurs, he will be prepared to join the finance committee and his colleagues in recommending the purchases.

The finance committee, select board member Steven Weisz, and I (with Mr. Weingold again voting no) will also be asking the town meeting to approve the purchase of a rescue boat for the fire department at a cost of $15,000, and the sale of its present boat, which has proved inadequate. There is sufficient free cash to cover the purchase, but taking into account the sale of the existing boat, the net amount of money needed will be minimal.

### Recall By-law

The other main item being submitted for consideration by the town meeting is a proposed recall election by-law. It is modeled on by-laws adopted by many other towns in Massachusetts. It will increase the ability of Monterey's voters to have their voices heard and heeded in town hall. It will provide added protection to the town when the result of an election has turned out so badly that the security and health of the town may be threatened. Initially, the select board was unanimous on this issue. However, a few weeks later Mr. Weingold voted against giving this option to the town meeting. Nevertheless, it will be presented and the town meeting will have a chance to express its will.

### Town Finances with Covid-19

Covid-19 continues to trouble our lives and complicate the operations of our local government. Unfortunately, we still have a long way to go before normal times return. Staying the course over the next year or more won't be easy, but if the recent past is prologue, we will be up to the task. So far, the residents of Monterey have followed the governor's guidelines, supported each other, and appreciated the effort of town employees to maintain the delivery of municipal services while keeping us all as safe as possible. I remain grateful and optimistic.

Despite the pandemic, Monterey is well-positioned to maintain an active and productive government. Unlike many municipalities dependent on multiple sources of income, much of it deriving from commercial activity, Monterey's primary source of tax revenue is residential real estate. Our tax collector, Mari Enoch, has reported that tax payments are not lagging in any respect. And we are not expecting any reduction in Commonwealth receipts. This town has always been committed to prudent progress, and I believe the select board will remain so despite the additional challenges arising from the pandemic.

### Village Culvert

The most important example of prudent progress is the select board's September approval of the $2.4 million grant application, prepared by Dennis Lynch, for replacement of the Route 23 culvert in the town center. (See page 5.) The present culvert is over sixty years old. Because of its age, condition, and inadequate size, the library, general store, post office, and town hall are among the buildings at risk for serious flooding damage. If we get the grant, which is likely, construction will begin in two or three years. Reality and common sense dictated action now. And citizens briefed on the issue voted almost unanimously that action be taken. Four options were presented, with one of them being doing nothing. Select board member John Weingold expressed a preference for doing nothing and voted against applying for the grant. I would have preferred

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unanimous select board support for this critical project. Perhaps when we get the grant, Mr. Weingold will change his mind and vote to support it.

## Town Administrator

We are moving forward on the process of appointing a town administrator. As recommended by the Collins Center Institute, we retained Mr. Mark Webber (on yet another 2-1 vote with Mr. Weingold voting against the hiring) to help us in the process, as he has done in other towns, most recently Stockbridge. Mr. Webber is a highly respected, retired town administrator. For around two months, he will be involved in the town government and will be assisting the select board in making critical decisions for this key municipal position. Those decisions include whether the town administrator should be full-time or part-time; if part-time, whether the services should be shared with another town; or if the position should be filled from our present complement of town employees. He will also assist in the critical question of precisely what duties should be assigned to the new position. As most of you know, the town's last effort to have a town administrator did not work out well. We plan to avoid past errors and have a town administrator in place before the end of 2020 or early in 2021.

## Grants and Roadwork

In mid-September, we received bids for about $365,000 worth of road work being financed by Commonwealth Chapter 90 funds. Shawn Tryon recommended the second lowest bidder, LB Corporation. The lowest bidder has not worked in Monterey. LB Corporation has served the town well in the past. The information Shawn received on the lowest bidder's work was not positive. On another 2-1 vote, Mr. Weingold dissenting, we awarded the contract to LB Corporation. The projects include new culverts on Art School and Tyringham roads, and fog and stone sealing on a number of roads.

Our grant writers have continued their diligent search for the funding of needed projects. Dennis Lynch obtained the $45,000 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant. That paid for the engineering study on which the $2.4 million culvert grant was based. In September, administrative assistant Melissa Noe got a $24,119 grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety for personal protective equipment for the fire department. And in the same month, she also obtained a FEMA grant for $6,663 worth of safety equipment for town hall and the library. Recently, the select board approved, by another 2-1 vote, again with Mr. Weingold voting no, to apply for over $60,000 in Covid-19 related FEMA grants. At the same time, the select board approved a grant application by town clerk Terry Walker. She is seeking $40,000 from the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant Program to finance the replacement of our police force's aging radios.

## Broadband Contracts

The select board's most challenging and frustrating task continues to be getting approval from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute of the $1.1 million grant to Fiber Connect. We have continued to press MBI and Fiber Connect to reach a final contract. Although recent news has been positive (perhaps a conclusion within thirty or sixty days), it is not yet a done deal. Once that agreement is in place, Monterey and Fiber Connect will finalize their agreement, which is almost ready for signature. Once that is accomplished, the select board will explore entering into an agreement with Holyoke Gas & Electric for backup line maintenance services should Fiber Connect go out of business. Egremont has a draft agreement from that company, and negotiations are ongoing. Monterey will probably await the conclusion of those negotiations before contacting the company. We're often asked how citizens can help Fiber Connect achieve success. At this point, the most important step, if you are not already a customer, would be to send $50 to Fiber Connect indicating an interest in the service in the future. (See page 12.) That is because MBI is still conditioning the grant on Fiber Connect showing a minimum of 51% of the town's premises in taking its broadband service.

## Schoolhouse Historic District

As an outgrowth of the town meeting's decision to not sell the old school, Barbara Swann proposed that the select board establish an Historic District Planning Committee, a possible mechanism for enhancement of our town center. The select board was unanimously persuaded, and the committee has been created. In about a month, we will be appointing members to this new committee. If you are interested in being a member, please let us know.

—Don Coburn
Select Board chair

*Editor's Note:* In My View *is an opportunity for select board members to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

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# November Elections
## Monterey Information

In a most unusual election year, it seemed helpful to create a voting information guide for the Town of Monterey. I hope this write-up conveys key pieces of information about voting in the General Election on or before Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Almost all information in this guide was compiled from the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth's voting website, which can be found here: **sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm**

### Early Voting

This year, all registered Massachusetts voters are allowed to vote early *by mail or in person*. No excuse is required for either option. Early voting by mail will begin soon after the ballots are ready. In some states, early voting by mail is already underway.

### Registration

The state deadline to register to vote for the election is October 24, 2020. If you need to register, or you need to update your address, name, party, or would like to check your registration status, you may do so at this website: sec.state.ma.us/OVR/

### Mail-in Ballot Applications

To vote by mail, you must complete a vote-by-mail application. An application can be completed by using either a paper form that was mailed to each Massachusetts address in September, or by using the Mail-in Ballot Application System on the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website, which can be accessed on sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm, and clicking the "Vote by Mail" button.

## Early Voting in Monterey

- Sundays, October 18 & 25, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Tuesdays, October 20 & 27, 4 to 8 p.m.
- Thursdays, October 22 & 29, 4 to 8 p.m.
- Saturdays, October 17 & October 24, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

I will not have ballots in my office until the middle of October. I will mail out ballots when I receive them.

Voting will be at town hall. Please remember to wear masks and use hand sanitizer.

—Terry Walker
Monterey Town Clerk

If you complete a paper application, you should deliver the application to the Monterey Town Clerk *no later than October 20* by mail or hand delivery. Applications received after October 28 cannot be accepted.

I, for one, encourage everyone to deliver your applications and ballots sooner. I believe you should return the application as quickly as you can to allow time for the mail to be sent and delivered in a timely manner, even a month ahead. You can't be too careful when it comes to making sure your opinion is counted.

### Returning Mail-in Ballots

Once you receive your ballot in the mail, you can fill it out and return it by mail (postmarked no later than November 3 and back at the local election office no later than November 6; though again, I recommend doing sooner to avoid any delay) or at the Monterey drop box, which is located at the Monterey Town Hall, at 435 Main Road.

### Tracking Mail-in Ballots

To track the status of your mail-in ballot information, I found it helpful to use this website: sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/track/trackmyballot.aspx. You enter your name and address, and it tells you when your ballot was mailed out to you and whether the town clerk received it back.

Of course, you can also vote in person on Election Day itself, which is Tuesday, November 3.

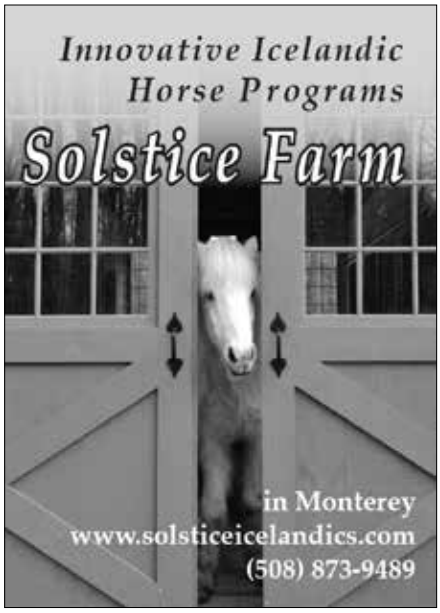
### Monterey Town Clerk for Help

Monterey Town Clerk Terry Walker is another helpful resource when it comes to voting questions and answers. She works part-time, so the hours she can be reached are limited. However, if you do have questions, her hours as of August 18 are Tuesday and Thursday 3 p.m.-8:30 p.m, and Saturday 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Her phone number is 528-1443 x113. Or you can email her at clerk@montereyma.gov.

—Jacob Edelman

### Websites Referenced:

- This is the portal to all voter information from the Secretary of State: **sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm**
- Voter registration: **sec.state.ma.us/OVR/**
- Vote by mail: **sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm**, and click on "Vote by Mail"
- Track your ballot: **sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/track/trackmyballot.aspx**



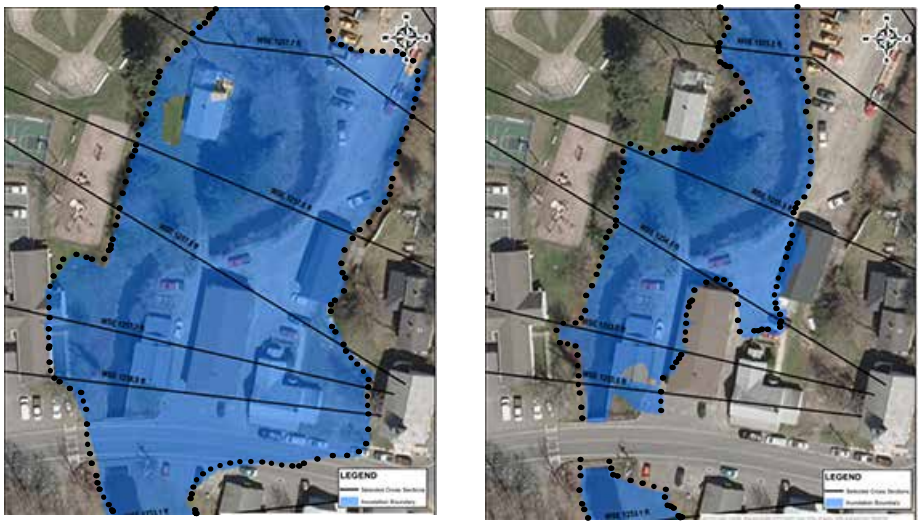
## Route 23 Village Culvert

On September 16, the Monterey Select Board made a decision on the preferred alternative to replace the undersized and outdated metal culvert that allows the Konkapot River to flow past the town hall and under Route 23. The existing culvert is about sixty years old with a design life of only fifty years, and definitely showing beginning failure.

As reported in the September issue, grant funding from the Massachusetts EEA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant, financed developing alternatives by the engineering firm GZA, and these were analyzed by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, town staff, and residents before the informed decision was made by the select board. (To see the alternatives, go to MontereyMainSreetCulvert.wordpress.com.) Twenty-eight residents participated in the online survey ranking their preferences among the alternatives, giving the highest average preference to Alternative #3.

The alternatives ranged from doing nothing; replacing the existing culvert with a similarly-sized or somewhat larger, but square, culvert; incorporating a berm to protect the town hall from flooding; building a new twenty-five-foot bridge; building a lengthy flood barrier and hardening the upstream bank.

The Select Board chose alternative #3, a new twenty-five-foot wide, ten-foot tall span, which will minimize flooding of surrounding structures and restore the Konkapot River's natural flow pattern. The estimated cost is $2.4 million, with the town contributing 25%.




*Aerial maps by GZA engineering. The map on the left shows the likely flooding during a one-hundred-year flood. On the right the anticipated flood zone with the completion of the twenty-five foot bridge, allowing water to pass through rather than spilling over the banks. Town hall is on the west side of the river. From the east side is Chris Tryon's house, Tryon Construction, Ray and June Tryon's house, with the church at the right.*

The next step will be for GZA to produce permitting-level designs during February 2021 to enable the town to begin coordination with regulatory and potential funding agencies. During 2021, the town plans to submit another MVP grant application for project permitting and final engineering design, followed by a final grant funding application for project bidding and start of construction in 2022. Furthermore, additional funding will also be sought from other federal and state sources to further reduce the project cost to Monterey taxpayers.

—Caroline Massa
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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## Bright Lights for Monterey

### Light Up the Village

Come December, when it's getting colder and darker, wouldn't it bring cheer to decorate our village of Monterey with colorful lights that reflect the upcoming season?

The Monterey Community Center is organizing a group of hearty and heart-minded souls who will help to plan and coordinate the lighting-up of Monterey's town center. If you would like to participate in this community-minded, fun activity, please email Elaine and Dennis at MontereyBrightLights@gmail.com. Contributions towards the lighting and supplies would be gladly accepted.

—Dennis Lynch

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# Fire Safety
## Upcoming Heating Season

Shawn Tryon, Monterey Fire Company's chief, asked to hold a conversation about fire safety during the upcoming heating season, and beyond.

Part of his concern right now is that throughout the region folks who came up during the year to their three-season homes to be safe are deciding to stay. They have homes with electric heat not rated for winter heat loads; when in the past they've had a half-cord of firewood delivered they're now getting two or three cord of wood; and the wood might not be sufficiently seasoned to avoid creosote fires; and they are intending to burn this fuel in stoves and fireplaces which are not designed to produce a great deal of heat.

### Minutes, Seconds Count

This was a refrain over various topics during our conversation. He's been involved in many incidents where the outcome was determined by such slim margins, but we can improve the odds for positive outcomes by what we do.

### Locatable signs

All the street addresses in Monterey are 911-locatable. In theory, when you give an accurate street address, the company should be able to find you quickly, whether for a medical emergency or a fire alarm. But this is often much more difficult than it sounds, and the information might not be clearly communicated. Folks can improve their odds by making sure they have very visible number signs at the street.

*These sign examples are clear, with good contrast, and up high for snowbanks.*

They don't need to be the manufactured signs that can be seen in other towns. "I actually think they look terrible," he commented. If they're eight or ten inches on a side, with numbers that contrast with the background, and that stand out in the dark, that would help. "Think about how visible your sign would be at 2 a.m. on a winter night in heavy snow. Look at your neighbors's signs too." It's best if your sign is high enough so it can't be blocked by plowed snow. "The sooner we're sure we're at the right address, the sooner we can get in to help." It also helps if the signs are more visible in the direction from which the responders would be arriving.

### Plowed Driveways

Once responders have arrived at your address, if your driveway is impassable, and your house is distant from the road, they might not be able to assist you. While this is generally not the case with folks who are living in the home, this can be catastrophic for second homes. And owners may not realize that insurance companies won't pay claims for homes that have been made inaccessible. "Keeping your driveway plowed could make a big difference if a fire breaks out."

### Heating Equipment

Keeping heating equipment in good condition just makes good sense. While it's an important way to keep your heating

**Christopher J. Tryon**
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Field & Laboratory Testing of Construction Materials (Concrete & Soils)

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costs down, it is perhaps more important because of safety. A poorly burning furnace can cause carbon monoxide to build up. A chimney that hasn't been cleaned can impair clean burning, and in some cases, especially with wood, can be a significant fire hazard with creosote build-up catching fire inside the chimney. Fires in older chimneys in poor condition can be especially hard to pinpoint. Have your chimney inspected regularly, and cleaned if necessary.

Shawn said that people have put ashes from wood stoves and fireplaces into paper bags and into their trash where undetected coals can smolder and light up. People will vacuum around fireplaces and get coals inside the cleaner bags. Ashes and coals need to be placed into metal containers and placed outside, preferably well away from houses.

### Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

There are a lot of different smoke and CO alarms on the market now. Shawn says the best are "hardwired" (which means they are powered by household electrical circuits) and have sealed backup batteries. Both types of alarms can detect the hazards in multiple ways, can be combined hazard alarms (smoke, heat, and CO), so there's a lot to choose from.

The units with sealed batteries are rated for ten years of service at which point both the batteries and the sensing material has reached the end of serviceable life and should be replaced. He cautioned that while the smoke alarms are good for ten years, the CO detection is often only rated for seven years before they until should be replaced. Putting dates on your alarms can help with routine replacements.

If you have alarms that run on just the typical nine-volt batteries, pick a time each year that you will replace all of them. Many people use the shift from daylight saving time to standard time (this year on November 1) for a date each year. This way your batteries will be fresh through the winter.

### Covid-19 Protocols

If a call is made for assistance, Tyron wants folks to be aware that to keep the responders safe, there are new protocols about getting information at the home, and entering. Barring a structure fire, they will inquire about the health of the residents, and require people to move away from the personnel. A standard procedure that was instituted this year is that responders will arrive with full personal protective equipment and oxygen masks in place. This not only protects the responders, it allows them to safely get into a home quickly.

### Minutes, Seconds Count

The Monterey Fire Company firefighters, who by state requirements are also first responders, engage in regular training and practice to respond quickly and effectively. Much of their behind-the-scenes work is keeping all their equipment ready to roll as quickly as possible. When a response is over they have to get the equipment ready to roll for the next call.

It is up to residents to make sure their homes can be found, that they are accessible, and that they have done the best they can to keep themselves safe. Medical emergencies and fires can have very different outcomes with even the shortest avoidable delays.

— Stephen Moore

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## Lake Garfield Working Group
### September Notes

The Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) held its September meeting by remote call-in on Monday, September 14. Member Michael Germain reported taking select board chair Don Colburn on a boat tour of the lake to survey the presence and density of Eurasian milfoil on the surface and at depth. The committee expressed appreciation of Don's interest and effort to obtain firsthand knowledge of the situation.

The working group discussed the results of the water quality research funded by the Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) and the intention to have researcher Shannon Poulin attend the next LGWG to present findings and answer questions. In brief, the conclusion of her final report was that overall Lake Garfield water quality and cyanobacteria were stable for the summer. No major blooms were seen on the lake and only on September 3 was there a visible bloom of inconsistent streams on the surface that disappeared by the following week. Shannon also noted in her report that while there is often a desire to compare data of different lakes, the uniqueness of every lake makes it more useful and important to obtain and compare year-to-year data on the same lake. The LGWG expressed appreciation to the FLG for their continued support of this work.

Dennis Lynch reported on the three ongoing grant applications currently in various stages of development. The awarding of the 604b grant targeting the mitigation of surface water runoff into the lake is pending.

The next meeting of the LGWG is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, at 7 p.m., by remote call in. All interested parties are encouraged to attend using the instructions to be posted on the Monterey town website.

— Steve Snyder
Lake Garfield Working Group chair

## Monterey Library Notes

Library services are slowly reopening. A few days ago Commonwealth Catalog reopened for business. Commonwealth Catalog (commonwealthcatalog.org) is the combined collections of the libraries in Massachusetts. When you look for items in CWMARS, you are searching through 9 million-plus items in 150 libraries. A lot of items, but not always what you're looking for. The next level to search for that item would be the Commonwealth Catalog.

### ComCat Login

There is a link at the bottom of the CWMARS catalog page (cwmars.org, or through the library's "resources" page) for this. Once you get to the page, you'll find you need to select your library (CW-Monterey: Monterey Library). After you select that, you enter your CWMARS barcode (the string of numbers that CWMARS uses as your "username") and password. Comcat has a different platform than CWMARS, but you can search for the same types of items you have been finding in CWMARS.

Once you've located and placed the hold on an item, you just have to wait for the email that says it has arrived in the Monterey Library. This process will of course take a little longer to complete, and of course, the current protocols add time as well.

### Library Improvements

You'll notice some work being done at the library in the coming months. This will be all thanks to the Friends of the Library. Certain extras, like the audio visual system that was already installed, and the generator that will be installed, were kept out of the contract to save some money and have some flexibility in what we get to accomplish our goals. So thank you Friends—you are providing, as you have for all the years of your existence, some of the extras that make this library special!

—Mark Makuc
Library Director
MontereyMassLibrary.org

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## Monterey Cultural Council

### 2021 Grant Cycle Begins

**Cultural Council Applications**
October to November 16
mass-culture.org
See instructions below

Individuals and organizations are invited to apply for Monterey Cultural Council grants. In line with the state guidelines, the cycle is a month later than in the past and closes to applications on November 16, 2020.

As in the past, the cultural council will support access, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences for adults, teens, and children in our community. However, given the current pandemic and so many other upheavals, local cultural councils around the state are exploring what this moment means for them and their communities. The Monterey Cultural Council is no exception. In the 2021 grant cycle, we specifically encourage projects that:

- Uplift, inform, empower, engage, elevate, or enliven individuals or the community at large to deal positively with this crisis.
- Foster greater inclusivity and understanding of—or opportunities to heal—societal divisions. This includes projects that address or highlight the lessons and legacy of the Native Americans in our area.
- Provide semi-structured learning activities for children, young adults, and families.
- Use technology or creativity to continue to make cultural activities accessible to the community while adhering to social distancing guidelines. (Some of our grantees have been making use of Zoom, others have taken activities outdoors. Use your imagination!)

Our local cultural council usually awards around $7,500 in total each year from state and local sources to individuals and non-profits that contribute to the local cultural fabric. Last month the Monterey Select Board approved the council's request to be part of the "direct granting" process, which means that grantees will receive funds soon after their acceptance letter.

To apply, go to mass-culture.org, click on "LCC members," then "Applicants." You can begin the process by entering "Monterey" in the yellow "Cultural Council" box. A wealth of information is available. Under the "Funding List" tab you will find a list of grants awarded for this year.

We are in the process of sending out a quick survey to get additional input from the community to inform our priorities. If you want to make sure you are included on our mailing list, kindly email maggierobertsbarkin@gmail.com.

—Janet Jensen and Maggie Barkin
Monterey Cultural Council co-chairs

## Pantry Pickup
### Free Food Support

The Monterey United Church of Christ and the Monterey Council on Aging are launching a pilot program—Pantry PickUp. Pre-packed bags of fresh food will be available at no cost for those in our community needing extra support at this time.

**Who:** Pantry PickUp is open to all residents of South Berkshire County. There are no income guidelines and shoppers are welcome to visit every week all year. Food is distributed on a first-come-first-served basis.

**When:** Pantry PickUp will start on Saturday, October 10, and will be open to shoppers every Saturday from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

**Where:** Monterey United Church of Christ, 449 Main Road, Monterey, MA 01245.

**What:** The Pantry offers a pre-packed bag of fresh fruit and vegetables as well as milk, eggs, and cheese.

Due to coronavirus, shoppers are asked to knock on the church basement door located at the corner of Tyringham and Main Road. Your bag will be brought to your car for contactless delivery.

Please wear a mask when you come to The Pantry. Thank you!

Those who need their food delivered can call the Council on Aging at 528-1443 ext. 247 to make arrangements.

To help support the Pantry Pickup, financial donations may be sent to the "Monterey United Church of Christ." Please note "For food pantry" in the lower left, notation space. Send to Monterey UCC, PO Box 182, Monterey, MA 01245.

—Andrea DuBrow
Monterey Council on Aging

## Berkshire County Funds
### Covid-19 Response Grants

Collaborative and rapid-response grantmaking by Berkshire United Way, Berkshire Taconic Foundation, Berkshire United Way, and Williamstown Community Chest during the Covid-19 pandemic has helped service providers and schools, many of them working in tandem and serving the same residents, reach an estimated 69,000 people in Berkshire County.

From March 19 to August 3, the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund for Berkshire County distributed more than $2 million in relief grants to ninety-five nonprofit organizations helping the most vulnerable populations in the county. The fund has awarded 132 grants to help with food, housing, physical and mental health services, and emergency child care and youth services, with a focus on hard-hit populations such as low-income families, communities of color, and seniors.

"When we realized this pandemic would be devastating to the nonprofit sector, our local economy, and our neighbors, our organizations came together quickly to mobilize resources and funding to help our community through this challenging time," said Candace Winkler, president and CEO of Berkshire United Way. "Our grantmaking team continued to award grants, even as needs shifted. This pandemic is far from over, but we remain here for good to help the people of Berkshire County."

More information can be found on Berkshire United Way's website, berkshireunitedway.org/, by selecting "Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund" on the home page, or at berkshiretaconic.org.

—Justin Burke
Berkshire Taconic Foundation

## Mushroom Hike
### October 23

The Monterey Community Center program committee has coordinated the following event with the Bidwell House Museum.

A Mushroom Hike, led by Tom Ryan, DCR Service Forester, will be held on Friday, October 23, at 3:30 p.m., weather permitting. Meet at the Bidwell House Museum parking area located at 100 Art School Road, Monterey.

Tom is not a mushroom expert, rather an avid mushroom lover and considers himself more of a lifelong student of mycology. Tom says, "Each mushroom has its own season for when it's likely to fruit and this year has been particularly tough because of drought conditions in New England." Tom will have a handout of some of his favorite mushrooms to show everyone with some basic facts, including where and when to find them, their uses, and other interesting facts about mushrooms. Wear outdoor clothing for the two hours, which may involve some trail walking and short steps into the woodland. Face masks and social distancing are still required in accordance with Covid-19 regulations.

—Dennis Lynch


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# Roadside in the time of Corona...

Francie Leventhal

We are a few months into our new Roadside operation, and these are interesting times indeed.

First and foremost, we hope that everyone is staying healthy and sane in these challenging times.

While we miss seeing all of your faces, we so appreciate those of you who continue to support us and those of you who are new customers. Operating a restaurant is a challenge during the best of circumstances, and attempting hospitality during a pandemic sometimes feels like navigating a minefield. Most of you are familiar with us at Gould Farm and know the work that we do, but for those who don't, we are a residential therapeutic community that supports mental health recovery through meaningful work and community living. We raise our own animals and grow many of the vegetables that we serve at the restaurant. We also make our own milk, cheese, yogurt, breads, maple syrup, and apple cider. Roadside is a core component of our working model, as it provides real-world restaurant experience to our guests as they look to transition back into the greater community.

Here's a little bit about how Roadside is operating these days:

We are trying to operate in the safest way possible for everyone, therefore all ordering and payment is done online, via our website at: RoadsideStoreAndCafe.com

You can pick up your food either at our pick-up window (which you will find where our front door used to be) or delivered to your car via curbside pickup. When you place your order you will be given a time when the order will be ready, generally fifteen to thirty minutes after you place your order. You can also select a later time to pick up your order when you are checking out.

We understand that internet and cell service around town is sometimes spotty, so if you are experiencing challenges, you can give us a call at 528-2633 and we can help you out.

We are not accepting any cash payments, only credit/debit cards.

Our hours remain the same: Wednesday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We have a new menu, which includes some old favorites like the Breakfast Burrito, tacos, and the Roadside Burger, along with some new options, such as our Farm Sausage and Biscuit Sandwich, and our Bacon Avocado Breakfast Sandwich.

The colder weather will bring the return of chili and soup, as well as the return of our take-out dinners. We will have chili and soups available by the cup, bowl and pint. We will also have meatloaf, mac and cheese, and beef stew available to purchase and heat up at home for dinner.

We sell newspapers, granola, maple syrup, farm cheddar, pancake mixes, and an array of beverages and No. Six Depot coffee.

We know that there are a lot of you who are missing your Harvest Barn fix, and Roadside is currently selling cinnamon rolls and muffins made by the Harvest Barn, and we will also be selling Harvest Barn breads, yogurts and some other goodies. You will find all of the offerings on our site.

We are so grateful to be able to serve our community and we look forward to seeing you all (through our pickup window) and hope to meet some more of you in the coming weeks and months.

Stay safe, healthy and well fed, with Roadside.

—Francie Leventhal
RoadsideStoreAndCafe.com

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**Online Ordering & Curbside Pick-up**

**roadsidestoreandcafe.com**

ROADSIDE

**Roadside Store and Cafe.**

Wed-Sat 7:30-2 pm. | 275 Main Road in Monterey | 413.528.2633

*For your safety, there is currently no dining on site.*

# Letters
## Town Government at Work?

Many of us Monterey residents are used to hearing about the difficulties of getting things done in town as well as finding capable people to do them. We also all experience the many added complications the Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted on most everything we do. Recently however I discovered how much easier it is to attend the various meetings at which town government takes place than it had been pre-pandemic. By law the meetings of the various departments, committees, and boards legislating town business are open to the public.

Before the pandemic we had to get to the town hall and locate the meeting place, with the added inconvenience of trying to arrive on time so as not to interrupt the meeting, looking presentable, finding a chair, and feeling compelled to stay for the entirety of the meeting. What the pandemic has brought us is the ability to attend these meetings from the comfort of our own homes, cars, or any place you have Internet or phone service. All you have to do is to visit the town website (montereyma.gov), click on the calendar, and follow the instructions to attend remotely. You may not have the time to commit to a particular town endeavor but if you want to have an opinion about whether your town government is working for you, why not find out? If you want to add your opinion or thoughts, this is a perfect opportunity to participate.

And before you jump to the conclusion that it's all boring proceedings, I challenge you to listen to our select board meetings where drama and intrigue can run high. The most recent meeting I attended reminded me of the time a car was stalled in an intersection and wouldn't start despite the repeated attempts of the driver. Another driver repeatedly honked his horn until the driver of the stalled vehicle finally got out of the car, walked over to the honking driver and said, "Why don't you try to start the car and I'll honk the horn?"

So next time you wonder what your town government is doing for you, use this one benefit the pandemic has brought us and attend a meeting at your leisure and possible instruction.

—Steve Snyder

*Editor's Note: Steve is the current chair for both the Lake Garfield Working Group and the Parks Commission.*


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# Letters
## New Montereyans

**Existing Fiber Optic service**

After a long weekend in the Berkshires last summer, Kate and I decided we wanted to become a part of the community here, and enjoy the rich nature and culture the region has to offer.

In the wake of Covid-19, our plans to spend more leisure time here turned into plans to be here full-time and work remotely.

A strong internet connection was our #1 must-have when looking for a home because we needed to transition here without skipping a beat.

I work as a visual effects artist in the film and TV industry. For me, this requires a fast, pixel-accurate, reliable connection to a remote desktop in my Boston office. Knowing that our home could be serviced by Fiber Connect was a huge relief, and certainly one of the deciding factors for choosing this home over another.

Kate is an international sales manager for a luxury brand, managing upwards of five hundred clients worldwide. She is constantly on video conference calls and has to be available on email at all times to accommodate various time zones. She also dabbles in various freelance projects having to do with real estate, staging, and luxury resale for decor and fashion, which require her to be instantaneously available on social media. A strong, consistent connection is imperative for both of us.

Thanks to Fiber Connect, we don't have to sacrifice our livelihood to be happy in our new town. We are excited to get to know our neighbors and contribute to the community while enjoying a more rural, quiet setting and a better quality of life. We're happy to have found what we want in Monterey.

—Brian Budak and Kate Lascar
453 Main Road

## Broadband
### 51% and Positive Comments

There've been a handful of people making positive comments on the Monterey Community Google group about making the $50 deposit to Fiber Connect to open the door to the state subsidy grant for building out the full network in Monterey:

• "As of September 20, the "current tally in Monterey based on 850 premises is 42%. That represents 357 of needed 434 people who have signed." —Chris Blair

• Denise Andrus asked, "How do I find out if I mailed in a deposit check to Fiber Connect?…I remember mailing one to someone, years ago."

Adam Chait replied, "We have only been taking deposits for three months. You may have made a deposit with WiredWest."

Dennis Downing advised, "You can request your $49 refund from Wired West at: wiredwest.net/campaign/refunds/. Then you can submit a new $50 deposit to Fiber Connect (see their website, bfcma.com)."

• Dennis Downing also posted: "Thanks to Denise Andrus & Susan Sellew for submitting your deposits to Fiber Connect. Now is the time for all parties to make this a top priority and bring this thing home. This includes our select board, Fiber Connect, the state agency MBI, and all residents. As residents, shooting through the 51% deposit rate is up to us."

• Susan Sellew commented, "I second Dennis' suggestion. I recently got a refund from WiredWest and will be sending it on to Fiber Connect. Even though I live so far back in that I won't be able to afford the service, sending a deposit to get the percent up is the least we can do for our neighbors. C'mon, people, let's get this DONE! Time to enter the 21st century by taking control of what we can.

• Select Board chair, Don Coburn, posted two comments:

"Even if you don't want to connect with Fiber Connect now, the time may come when you will want to, or will want to say to potential buyers of your home that they can have high speed internet. Although there are other systems for making internet connections, none deliver the speed of fiber optic cable, and you or your buyers may want that speed. REMEMBER, the $50 does not represent a firm commitment. But if we don't reach a 51% take rate, as presently defined to include the $50 non-binding payment, then MBI won't give Fiber Connect the full $1.1 million grant and you will forgo having the future ability to have fiber optic service. So, help yourself and help your neighbors by paying the $50 to Fiber Connect now!

A little while later he posted, "Thanks for publicizing the importance of reaching 51%. Although I've never taken the position that Montereyans should become customers of Fiber Connect, a business judgment for each of them to make, I do strongly support having the Fiber Connect system available to all who want it now OR WHO MAY WANT IT IN THE FUTURE. Remember the refundable $50 is not a firm commitment. It does not bind YOUR future decision. But your neighbors need your help, and some day when you come to sell your home you may find that the ability to connect with Fiber Connect then relates to the price your home is worth. So if you can, with an eye to the present or the future, pitch in and help Monterey enter the 21st century."

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## Broadband Network Build-out
### Urgency for 51%

Earlier this year information was published, based on a preliminary agreement between the state agency, MBI, and Fiber Connect, that the grant allotment would come to Fiber Connect (FC) in three stages. The first was 25% ($270,000) once FC had applied and paid for all the remaining pole licenses; the second 25% would be paid out once 51% of the premises had registered their interest with a $50 deposit; and the final 50% ($540,000) when the network was fully built out and operational.

Adam Chait, CEO of Fiber Connect, recently said that they have the pole applications all prepared. However, they are holding off pending finished contracts with both the Town of Monterey and with MBI, *and* reaching the 51% milestone set by the state. Chait said that there is considerable expense paying for the pole licenses and FC will not spend that money until they know the state is satisfied with the demonstrated interest of Monterey residents and owners.

The pole application process is a lengthy process, so the sooner the town hits the 51% goal, the sooner the application process for the outlying areas in town can get underway. This is not a case of waiting until the lines pass your house, because unless folks help now, they might not pass your house for years, if at all.

### Premises Count

It should be understood that the 51% is based on *premises*. On the actual count of properties, not of the population. If there are owners who have multiple premises, a deposit for each one is needed.

As of this writing FC has received deposits for 42% of the premises, so approximately seventy-five more are needed. Do this soon for the sake of everyone in Monterey. Go to bfcma.com to register and make a deposit.

—Stephen Moore
Broadband Ad Hoc group

ॐ

## Monterey Village Schoolhouse

### Appreciation

Thank you to all who have been moved not only to work towards the creation of a historical district in our town to preserve and highlight the unique 1850s style of America so well shown in the buildings that dot the center of our town. Thank you also to those who share the concern that our town's schoolhouse be returned to the hub of our youngest ones again. Once again providing a schoolhouse, nestled within our town, gives our youngest a strong sense of safety and community in this era of pandemics. Without this schoolhouse and the church, we would not have been approved as a town with a new town center in 1847. Then, as now, education was critical in New England culture.

### Historic District Update

As an update for the Monterey community in the matter of our schoolhouse, and to speak to our need to supply a safe environment for our youngest children, it helps to understand procedures behind the appointment of a Single Building Historic District Study Committee—the best means of preserving this foundational structure. To create any local district study committee, certain committee nominations must be considered.

As noted in Mass General Laws Chapter 40C Section 4, our select board must request nominees. This law states, a) there should be one appointment from two nominees submitted by the chapter of the American Institute of Architects covering the area; b) one appointment from two nominees of the Board of Realtors, if any, covering the area; and c) a third nominee appointed from among our own Monterey Historical Society members. Further, if within thirty days after submission of a written request for nominees to these organizations, no nominations have been made, the select body may proceed to appoint the study committee without nominations by such organizations.

Names and addresses for the required organizations were given to the chair of the select board, and the select board was given two nominees from our historical society. We can presume letters have been typed, signed, and sent. After waiting thirty days (in this case, until October 16), if there are no replies, the select board can move to nominate between three and seven members. More than that number have indicated an interest in helping, but the law is quite specific about the qualifications of some appointees.

I am in favor of many more Montereyans joining in after appointments are made because we will need their expertise as well (including engineers, carpenters, painters, and contractors). We need the schoolhouse for our children, most especially our youngest, in this era of pandemics. A commitment to them and their parents is a vital, critical need.

By mid-October, we should be able to convene our Single Building Historic District Committee.

—Barbara Swann
barbara_swann@hotmail.com

## Bracken Brae's 2020 Season

Thank you to everyone who patronized the Bracken Brae Farms stand. It was a pleasure this year to bring you all the vegetables that I could. I hope you found something you enjoyed. I know that some veggies weren't available as long as we wished, but more will be back next year. I will be closing on October 12 for the year. I will be reopening in June of 2021 when the vegetables are starting to ripen.

A few fun facts about your purchases this year as of mid-September are:

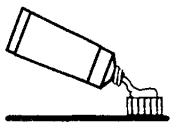
- Approximately 8,595 pounds of tomatoes,
- 1,875 dozen equaling 22,500 ears of corn,

I look forward to being open again and seeing all your faces.

Again, thank you.

—Anna Duryea

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist



All phases of dentistry

528-6520

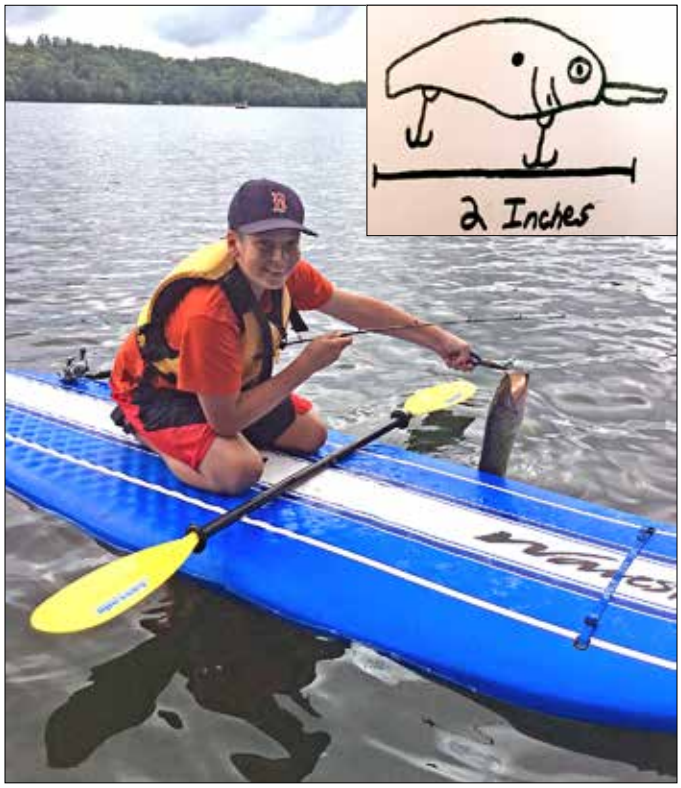
Route 23 Monterey

# Students Authors and Artists

## Mike the Pike!

It was a rainy and cloudy day on Lake Garfield. The time was around 3:30 when I put my paddle board in the water to go after fish. Once I saw the fish, I originally thought it was a Chain Pickerel but later found out it was a Northern Pike! The fight from the fish pulled my paddle board and I drifted down to another dock where the people took a picture of the fish! No one thought that finding a fish of that size in Lake Garfield was even possible, including me! For years I've been chasing a legendary big Bass that has been caught on the lake in the past, but I caught an even bigger fish! My family and I came up with an approximate weight of about six to eight pounds. The lure I was using was a squared billed crankbait. I have caught lots of other fish on this same lure before but nothing of this size. I unhooked the fish back into the lake, so "Mike the Pike" is still out there to catch! I never thought it was even possible but it happened, and I hope to catch an even greater size fish in the lake. Keep fishin'! And Tight Lines!!!

—Justin Moskal, 12




## Student Authors and Artists

The *Monterey News* is happy to offer space in the paper for student authors and artists from kindergarten through twelfth grade who wish to have their work published. This would be open to resident students in Monterey, as well as to students who have family members who receive the *Monterey News*. The work can be assigned classwork, or freely created.

The intention is to publish all publishable work, defined as an ability to digitize artwork or text. Longer text, or larger artwork, may be sampled depending on the number of submissions. (For this purpose, a really well-written paragraph may be more a showcase of skill than a full article.) Very young student's handwritten work could be scanned or photographed for the paper.

If anyone has questions about this, please contact me. The deadline is typically around the twentieth each month. I will reply to everyone interested in sending in a submission with information concerning attribution, contact information, and privacy. Questions, or submissions, can be emailed as attachments (in any word document format, or image file format) to me at MontereyNews9@gmail.com, or sent to me personally at P.O. Box 38, Monterey, MA 01245.

It is my hope that this could be a means to demonstrate the presence of interesting and talented student work in our community. Please consider participating.

—Stephen Moore, Editor

## Design a Headline

It would be wonderful if some Monterey students would like to try their creative hands designing a page headline for the top of the Student Authors and Artists (like what's at the top of this page, but nicer looking!)

If colors are used, that would be nice for the electronic version. But just remember that the paper is printed in black and white, so the colors become light and dark tones.

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## Dear Me By Stephanie Sloane

### Forbidden Pillow

In case you think I'm all better now
I still sleep on my side of a king-sized bed
I still can't use the pillow on the other side
Even though it's been replaced
Maybe a new house
Maybe a new mattress
Maybe never

July 21, 2020

### Full Circle

What remains on my kitchen counter
After moving all my cookbooks
To my new location?
Only a black 3-hole loose-leaf binder
Into which some 59 years ago
I diligently copied my mother's recipes
To begin my new married life

August 12, 2020

### Homecoming

I've returned to my part-time home
Where I lived since childhood
As did my father
Where else can you pass a man
From the back
Who walks at the side of the road
And realize you dated him once
When he was eighteen
And recognize him by his posture?
Still tall and straight at eighty-two

August 29, 2020

*Stephanie grew up spending every summer of her first five decades of life on Lake Buel. Her grandparents had spent their honeymoon on Lake Buel a hundred years ago. She and her husband bought a house on Lake Garfield in 1994 and kept the house until 2015. Her husband of fifty-nine years passed away in March (pre-Covid) so she moved to Monterey in mid-August. It seemed logical to her since she still has friends here and feels safe. She wrote a book this summer,* Dear Me*, to document the times. Hopefully in November she will hold a Zoom presentation through the community center of her book. You can borrow* Dear Me *from the Monterey Library.*

*Great Blue Heron*

### My Little Wing

I lost my little wing the other day.
She helped me fly, stay the path.
Now, I must stray alone, without
Life's companion, seeking hope
Where I can find it.

—Sam Estreicher

*My wife's name, Aleta, in Spanish means "little wing." I wrote a book,* Poems on a Little Wing, *on our tenth anniversary in 1979.*

### Three-Mile Pond

I wake up too early, never rested,
then stay in bed too late, without fail.

The wind flickers the sun on and off.

Indian summer.
I make plans, then abandon them.

I send men poems,
then wonder if I shouldn't have.

I throw myself into mountain ponds,
trying to salvage autumn days,
packing a bag late in the afternoon—
papers to grade, a granola bar.

As if working were possible here,
the island of paintbrush trees,
the seductive curve of mountains.

This lake they call a pond.

Sometimes I sprint up mountains,
unable to sit still.
Sometimes I catch early buses
in the gray dawn
to protest in the streets.
Later, when this place is frozen, I'll ski clean
across it, the snow dry and chiseled
as a sand dune.

But now, heavy-limbed, I collapse in the grass.
I bargain with clouds to unblock the sun.
I recall the choreography of kisses,
how the hand
slipped around to the small of the back.
I dissolve into a stiff wind.

The snapping turtle rises occasionally
from the murk, flippering up into the sun—
something to keep our strokes swift and sharp,
to keep us from rooting.

—Kateri Kosek
(published in *Blueline* 2020)

*Bald Eagle*
*Photos on this page by Sheila D'Nodal*

## Monterey Community Garden

The community garden at the Monterey Community Center was full this year. This is the first year that all the gardens were full, and there was a waiting list. We had first-time gardeners, seasoned gardeners, and every one in between. We had a wide variety of plantings and even a cutting garden with an abundance of flowers. Plants and ideas were shared by the gardeners and perhaps some of the best crops were the new friendships that grew out of a common goal. I think the best way to describe how this garden grew is to take some quotes from a few of the gardeners.

Beth Hoffman said, "This was the first year both at the Community Garden and growing vegetables. I loved watching my four squash plants grow. They were so beautiful, the yellow blossoms, giant leaves, and the squashes themselves were all amazing." She did say she had some lesser success with other vegetables.

Dan Zweig said, "I planted a couple hills of zucchini with three plants in each. I started everything in this plot from seed. They were slow getting started but they produced fabulously. We must have gotten forty or fifty zucchinis over the course of the summer. We got a zoodle maker to make zucchini noodles all summer. We think shrimp scampi is better with zoodles than with pasta." He had two gardens and will keep one again next year even though his home garden will also be up and growing by then.

Carol Smoler had the most luck with rainbow chard, arugula, and zucchini, and said, "This was my first year growing anything edible. Overall, it was successful and I can't wait to improve on it next year. I found the carting of water in the beginning of the season a bit hard. I also need to improve the soil.... that will be next year!"

Cheryl Zellman said, "Wonderful to harvest tomatoes, cukes, and tomatillo. Jalapenos are just popping. Never have real luck with peppers. Best part of this summer was seeing the beauty and bounty of all the garden plots. Delicata squash, corn, artichokes, flowers, and more. It was not a chore watering from the many containers from home. It was great visiting and sharing with other community gardeners. Looking forward to next summer."

Janet Jensen reported, "Some nice basil and early lettuce. Bugs got most of my kale. Still hope for the brussels sprouts and cabbage."

Joann Bell had her own story, "Didn't plant till July as we were trapped in LA. Missed the asparagus but so grateful to Liz Maschmeyer who froze rhubarb from my garden for me. My tomatoes were so-so, my lettuce was good, and lots of zucchini from one plant!"

Elisabeth Maschmeyer said, "The black soy beans grew beautifully aside from some Japanese beetles that dominated the scene during July. Next July I'm thinking of using some remay during the beetle season. Still, the crop seems unimpaired. Overall, it is great to run into fellow gardeners in that lovely community setting. I look forward to next spring."

Maggie Barkin felt her best success was with her kale. She said, "It looks fabulous and keeps on giving. Also happy with these sunny yellow tomatoes. Thanks to the cistern system Joe Baker designed, we had water to use most of the summer."

Christine Goldfinger grew Roma varieties including San Marzano tomatoes that grew well and she now has quarts of tomatoes to enjoy for the upcoming winter.

Bonner McAllester, who grew the most amazing Dakota black popcorn, said, "I have enjoyed reading the accounts and joys of my fellow gardeners. I have really loved dropping by to check on things and finding one or two pals on hand, doing the same thing. This has been a way to run into friends, visit with each other in a lovely setting, framed by our common interest: the garden. Thanks, everyone."

Nancy Beach summed it up when she said, "It made me so happy to see the fully used garden plots, the variety of plantings, and the myriad of flowers throughout. I am inspired to plant tall zinnias somewhere in my world next year... what a feast of color & cheer! So, in final summary, for me, I'll add a word to our garden title, calling it the "Monterey Co-operative Community Garden!"

Happy Autumn and harvest to all.

—Christine Goldfinger

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## Monterey Community Center
### October 2020

It won't be long before the big white tent at the community center will be coming down, signaling the end of the summer and some of the many activities that took place under it. As the weather gets colder and less agreeable for outdoor activities, some things will revert back to remote participation as the community center will remain closed for the foreseeable future.

One very successful activity that took place under the tent this summer was Tai Chi. A group of eight to ten people met once a week over the course of nine weeks to learn and practice this ancient art, under the direction of David Crowe from Berkshire Tai Chi. While technically a martial art, the practice of Tai Chi and Qi Gong promote the harmony of mind, body, and spirit. Some of the benefits of Tai Chi are stress management, greater flexibility, improved balance, and a better ability to focus. The group this summer worked diligently to attain all of these as they went through the various movements and forms. On the surface, they don't seem very complicated but to do them properly is the work of a lifetime. It requires a great deal of concentration to produce the movements in a graceful and purposeful way. While exercise is certainly a component of the practice, it is the ability to calmly focus your mind and gather the *chi*—vital energy—into your body that makes this practice a little bit different from yoga or meditation.

While the in-person classes are coming to an end, anyone who is interested in pursuing Tai Chi can contact David and Kathy Crowe at Berkshire Tai Chi, 413-394-4196, or email them at GreatChi@BerkshireTaiChi. They have some limited in-person classes at Berkshire Pulse and are also doing some Zoom classes. Hopefully, we will be able to continue Tai Chi at the community center when it is safe to do so inside or outside when the weather warms up again.

—Laurie Shaw
Monterey Community Center chair

ॐ

## Here's a Thought...

Mary Kate Jordan

And Autumn said, *Carry the brilliant colors of my heart into your own.*

Maples are dotting my Route 23 route to Great Barrington with bright red in the third week of September as I write this for you. By the time you read it, the Equinox will have passed and our hoped-for autumn hillside display of color may be well underway.

Here's a poem with Autumn herself as the spokesperson. It's also here as my prayer of gratitude that the brightest fires on our hills are made of orange and red maple leaves and sunsets, not spark, flame, and coals.

Make Them Your Own
*Carry the brilliant colors of my heart into your own.*
*Keep the fragrance of my autumn air*
*as a touchstone to bring you joy.*
*I am dedicated to*
*opening my heart and eyes*
*to the warming of my mind.*

*May you do the same.*

*I am a cornucopia of abundance.*
*Here: take and eat.*
*Relish each flavor and texture.*
*Honey and cinnamon are my companions.*
*Make them your own.*

It's a call to action, too. Let's risk standing in our gratitude for where we are, and for what we enjoy, without losing our grief and compassion for our planet and our human, non-human relatives engulfed in the flames of wildfire, rage, illness, despair. That's strength. That's dignity. That's power.

And, speaking of power, here's a line of gratitude for our right to vote. You've sent your ballot in already, right?

— Mary Kate Jordan

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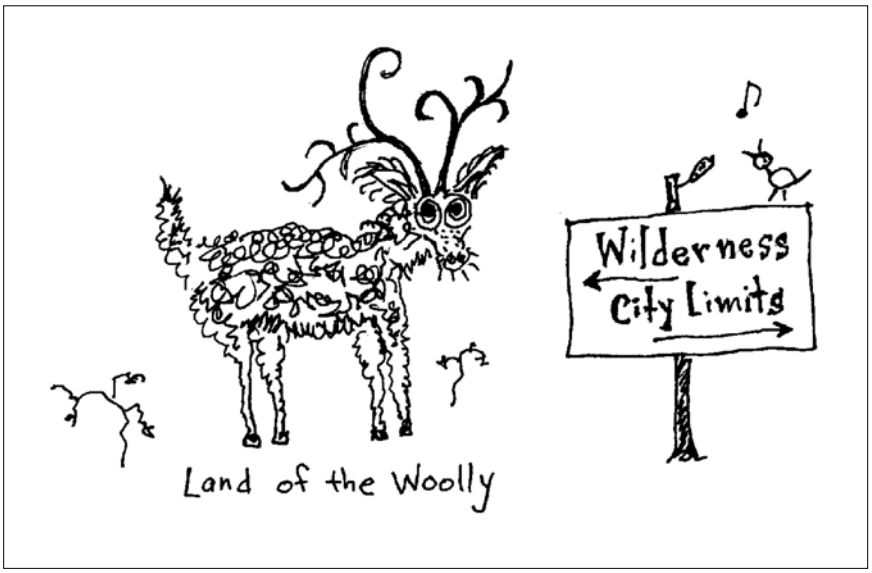
## The Wild Within




Just because folks have grown up or evolved as a species, all civilized and tame, does not mean we have lost our wild connections, our longings. Look how the ad-producing geniuses make use of our wish for the wilderness, with many a Hollywood-class model out on some mountaintop wearing a sweater or a pair of sunglasses we are more likely to want than if she or he were sitting on the porch, or in the living room, or the boardroom. This is marketing of the "picture yourself here!" variety and it must work or we wouldn't see it all over the place. And buy the sunglasses or whatever.

Thoreau is famous for having written, "In wildness is the preservation of the world," and the motto shows up on many a wall calendar, greeting card, and sampler. Some of the places it shows up are like those wilderness-setting ads I described which may erroneously quote him as having written: "In wilderness is the preservation of the world."

Oh well, what's the difference. Just a typo, or maybe Thoreau actually meant "wilderness" back when he wrote his essay, *Walking*. I used to think this myself, that what he meant was wild nature, the wilderness, the pure and "untrammeled" (to quote the 1964 Wilderness Act) landscape you can still find some places. Making the connection to how Thoreau thought such places were going to save everything, or preserve everything, was a little more of a leap, but I wanted to make that leap. Maybe I thought he meant we needed lots of such places. Maybe lots more than are left, even. Another leap: how does anybody make more wilderness? We do know that only Ma Nature can make a tree, but after we cut them down to build cities, suburbs, detention centers, tennis courts, highways, and army bases, it could take a long time for Ma N. to make more in these places.

Practically speaking, I could not follow the wilderness idea straight to saving the world, so it's a good thing I knew he really said "wildness" not "wilderness." I was also lucky to come across Christopher Manes, who wrote *Green Rage: Radical Environmentalism and the Unmaking of Civilization*. (Back Bay Books, 1991.) Here's what he wrote:

"When we talk about wildness, we should consider not only the wildness of nature and the wonderful blossoming and efflorescing of life that goes on all around us, but also the wildness Thoreau speaks about in our own lives, the independence, freedom, and deeper emotional participation that our overwrought and regimented culture can't tolerate."

I went to the source, the essay *Walking*, and found that when Thoreau speaks of wildness he means the whole nine yards, inside and out. There are the swamps and the wild weather but there is also the wildness within each of us, the way we are not separate from Nature (Thoreau uses a capital N) but a part of it all.

This begins to feel like That Which Cannot Be Spoken or Written, but because we are human we do keep on trying. We also keep hungering for the wild, any way we can

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get more of it. As scrubbed and presentable and regulated as our lifestyle has become, the wild within is like some compass needle always pulling us to Thoreau's Nature. Even when we don't have the right jacket or footgear, or sunglasses, or even when we are afraid we could get stomped by a moose or bit by a tick, we still veer toward Nature as well as we know how.

I used to read *The Canyon Country Zephyr*, and in its April/May 2008 issue Loch Wade wrote up the etymology of "Wilderness" (in "Do We Really Need Wilderness?" pp. 18-21.) He says it is a combination of two ancient Germanic words meaning "wild deer place," which was a place where anti-social types were driven off to live. It was wild humans, as much as wild deer, who could be found in this place. Wade says our word "wild" has the same origin as "wool," which means untamed and unshorn. The same root, *ghwelt* and its cognate *ghwer* give us the Latin *ferus* and our words "feral," "fierce," and "ferocious."

We surely do need to preserve the world, but our best and only hope is not just hanging on for dear life to the few wilderness places not yet trammeled, it must be our own senses, the wild within. These will be the preservation of the world because these are our strength and our powerful connection to the world, outside the city limits with the other wild things. It would be best for us to leave the city, the built environment, but we don't really have to, as long as we can still hear the moose within, or the dragonfly, the bat, the ring-necked snake.

—Bonner McAllester

## High and Mighty

Theodore Roosevelt, larger than life in so many ways, belongs on Mt. Rushmore, but I'm not sure that many Americans can explain why. The issue is that neither political party is eager to claim him. Republicans, despite Roosevelt's achievements, have problems embracing his belief in activist government, his impatience with "stupid" capitalists, and his 1912 campaign that split Republicans and handed the election to Woodrow Wilson. Democrats, while welcoming his reforms, are reluctant to credit a rival party or accept his views on racial hierarchy, not uncommon in his time and among his class, but hard to swallow today.

Roosevelt did it all. He was a western rancher, a cowboy, intrepid explorer, naturalist, hunter, athlete, soldier (he preferred being called Colonel), a wonderfully engaged father (to his six children) and yes, President of the United States, a figure known round the globe. And arguably the most well-rounded and intellectually gifted person to occupy the White House (in a close contest with Thomas Jefferson). A Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Harvard, he wrote over thirty books and countless magazine articles on a wide variety of subjects, loved poetry, read a book a day (there is wide agreement on this), spoke many foreign languages, and possessed an astonishing photographic memory.

Every American knew Roosevelt. He gave informal press conferences almost daily while his barber shaved him. Cartoonists had a field day caricaturing his teeth, smile, hat, and glasses (he lost an eye while boxing in the White House). For a time the "Teddy Bear" became the rage across the country.

His energy was boundless, one might say manic. Shot at close range in Milwaukee during the 1912 presidential campaign, the bullet, while entering his chest, was slowed down by a metal eyeglass case and the folded speech in his jacket pocket. He was bleeding but still delivered the scheduled ninety-minute address! (The bullet would never be removed.)

Roosevelt embodied the best of America together with certain less admirable features. He battled political corruption, raged against corporate excess and inequality, championed individual self-improvement and physical well-being, exemplified family values, promoted far-ranging conservation measures, and maintained that the federal government must assume an active role in redressing societal ills. On the other hand, he viewed white Anglo-Saxons as the essential bearers of civilization, and was inclined to be bellicose and to glorify war. But he could be excused when, on September 2, 1902, while passing through Pittsfield, Massachusetts, he threatened to physically assault a street car motorman who accidentally crashed into his carriage, injuring the President. It would have been no contest.

—Richard Skolnik


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## Seeking Gold

"Thar's gold in them there hills," was the classic line in many of the western movies and stories I enjoyed growing up. As a result I was always on the lookout for gold. The time spent scrambling over rocks, fishing along rivers and streams, and exploring the woods as a youth was also time spent looking for gold. If I could only find my fortune in my own backyard.

What I did find was a few nuggets of fool's gold (iron pyrite), or what all of the adults said was fool's gold. The test I was told was to hit it with a hammer, gold was soft and malleable, iron pyrite was hard and brittle—if it shattered it was fool's gold. Somehow I never could quite bring myself to smash my treasured "gold nuggets" with a hammer. To me they were still valuable even as nuggets of fool's gold.

I was to find out a little later in life that there was an actual gold mine years ago in New Marlborough. I don't think much gold was extracted there but enough was to call it a gold mine. I met one woman in New Marlborough who told me her grandmother had a pair of gold earrings made from the gold mined there.

Clay Perry, in his books *Underground New England* and *New England Buried Treasure*, talks a lot about the geologic and mineral features of Berkshire County and the surrounding area. Around here, more prevalent than gold mines, were the iron mines and stone quarries, both of which existed in Monterey. I believe both books are out of print but they are an interesting read containing long forgotten and little known history. If you like that sort of thing and can find them somewhere, grab them.

John Fratalone, a blaster and longtime resident of Egremont, was occasionally engaged by the Monterey Highway Department to break up rock blocking the laying of drainage pipe and ledge projecting into the town right-of-way. Blasters are familiar not only with explosives but also different types of rock and minerals. Like me and many others, John too was always on the lookout for gold. He told of a couple of occasions when while blasting he found at least trace indications of gold.

One was in New Marlborough. Mr. and Mrs. Coyne living on East Hill Road decided to put an addition on their house. Joe Wilkinson was the excavating contractor on the job and John was brought on to blast the ledge so the foundation forms could be set. After blasting some rock John claimed he noticed some trace evidences of gold, not enough to indicate a gold vein or strike but enough to confirm that, yes, it is sometimes found in this area.

Years ago in the gravel pit on Gould Farm there was a machine for washing sand and gravel. The machine washed the fines and silt from the material being put through it. It then carried the washed material up a conveyor belt, depositing it in a pile. A person with gold on his mind reasoned that if any particles of gold were in the sand and gravel they would most likely settle into the bottom of the machine, gold being a heavy mineral. So in the fall before freeze up, when the machine was being drained and cleaned in preparation for winter, an enterprising man was present with several five gallon buckets to collect the sludge and sediment from the bottom of the machine. The thought was to pan this material like the old time gold seekers and see if there really was any gold there.

Panning for gold is best done in warm weather when there isn't the danger of getting frostbitten fingers, so the pails were taken home and placed in the basement to await warmer times. That winter proved to be full of typical New England weather with plenty of snow, sleet, and freezing rain. After one particular day of freezing rain and ice the enterprising gold seeker returned home to find his driveway and walkway all nicely sanded.

"Who did this?" he asked of his wife.

"I did." she replied.

"Where did you get the sand?"

"I used those pails you had in the basement."

They say in paradise the streets are paved with gold: are we perhaps already living in paradise and just don't realize it?

I know a fellow who lived for awhile on Martha's Vineyard (a very picturesque island off the coast of Massachusetts). After a number of years living there, working, starting a family, caring for various responsibilities, and in general living a very busy life, he noticed that he had started to take his surroundings for granted. The beauty around him had become commonplace.

When he moved to the Berkshires, another beautiful area, he vowed to never let it happen again. His advice to me was to take time to appreciate the beauty around you every day, even if it is just the simple things—freshly fallen snow, birds singing in the trees, flowers blooming or the sun shining. The fellowship of family and friends, a nice meal, or the companionship of a loyal pet are all things often taken for granted, but are things to be appreciated and thankful for as well. Although life does have its difficulties and disappointments at times, I believe his council is sound and have been endeavoring to live by it. I hope others can benefit from it as well.

The gold around here isn't so much under the ground as it is on top and visible to the eye, it's just that we as humans sometimes have difficulty seeing it.

—Lyman Thomson

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## The Beneficial Beaver

Beavers can best be described as some of mother nature's most beneficial ecosystem engineers, by building dams that benefit wildlife and the landscape, including people. They work day and night to industriously produce and sustain enriching backwaters of slow-moving streams and ponds for every creature imaginable that breeds life into their habitat. They create homes for water-loving birds, mammals, insects, and a variety of warm water fish. Slow-moving waters also filter out nitrogen, and allow heavy metal sediments to sink to the bottom, preventing them from spreading downstream. Studies of eco-hydrology prove that beaver dam wetlands thrive with islands of widely distributed vegetation during periods of drought that provide wildlife refuge during dry season wildfires. Beaver dams, and their ponds once silted-in, beaver meadows, provide a significant cushion during high water flood events.

No other animal has had greater influence on the habitat of North America than the beaver. Deservedly, Native American tribes called it "the sacred center of creation in the land." It was one of the reasons Europeans first colonized the continent, having discovered beaver pelts in the late 1600s and 1700s and finding them more valuable than the East Indies spices originally sought. Subsequently, British and French trappers nearly over-hunted them with traps, and traded with Native Americans for even more pelts, almost to extinction. Millions of pelts were shipped to European hat makers for a process called felting, and stretched over frames to form top hats. The meat from the tails was salted down in wooden barrels and sent to England to be eaten, while they were classified as fish for tax purposes in custom records. Pelts became so valuable that Britain and France fought wars to control the fur trade.

In addition to being valued for their pelts and meat, beavers were once hunted for their castoreum, which was used in perfume and folk medicines. More recently, legal protections for the beavers and restocking efforts began in the early twentieth century, and today, because of these conservation efforts, beavers now number about fifteen million in North America. Long ago, in the mythology of the Delaware and Wyandot people, they were thought to possess artistic, cultural, and almost supernatural powers as one of the creators of the natural world. But in modern rural and urban environments they are often considered a nuisance for damming and flooding drainage systems and low-lying property and right into the basements of houses. Although there is still some trapping for pelts, which can be worth several hundred dollars, where we live in Fairhaven on the coastto help affected landowners, a special permit must be purchased in advance before trapping.

The cambium layer between a tree's bark and inner wood is a mainstay of a beaver's diet, for which they have four sharp incisors and sixteen other teeth for grinding and chewing for digestion. Their long, curved incisors grow continuously so they have to chew and eat often to keep them trimmed and sharp.

There are many nonlethal methods of beaver control in the clash of wildlife renewal and modern living. Landowners may wrap fencing or metal barriers around tree trunks, or apply a compound called thiram that gives off a strong odor to irritate a beaver's nose. If beavers clog culverts in ditches, mesh cages at or near culvert openings (beaver deceivers), or running a pipe through the dam to control water flow can be effective, but costly and difficult. Whenever possible, wildlife managers prefer to assist landowners in relocating beavers to more suitable habitats.

Understanding the place of beavers in the ecology of North America and parts of Eurasia, and respecting their instinct to engineer and construct dams, is necessary if we are to successfully share the world and its water with these hardworking and problem-solving creatures. If you are inspired to see beavers in action in Monterey, walk halfway down Diane's trail from Gould Farm to where a dam connects the confluence of the Konkapot River and Rawson Brook. There is also a population of beavers thriving in Benedict Pond at Beartown State Forest.

—George Emmons


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# Lake Garfield Dam

## Part 2 – Industry on the Konkapot

*Bull Head Rock in Parker's Cove was the flood marker for Lake Garfield. Two holes were drilled into the rock to gauge the flooding. Linda Thorpe said that these two holes are directly in line with the small tree on the top. She took these photos this August.*

When, after two earlier proprietors turned down the Mill Lot in 1738, in 1739 John Brewer recognized the ease with which small waterpower could be developed along this lower section of the river below our Lake Garfield to meet the demands of industry in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and made it attractive to manufacturers.

According to town meeting of June 8, 1739, it was voted that "Mr. John Brewer shall have the saw-mill lot containing seventy-five acres on condition that he build a good saw-mill and grist-mill." He agreed, providing he could move the location of said mills downstream from the upper end of the sawmill lot. Over time Twelve Mile Pond (aka Brewer Pond, later Lake Garfield) was developed by dams to form a reservoir which fed our Konkapot River.

The early history of the mills is obscure, but the old John Mansir Mill is one example of the first paper mill to be started in town. It was probably in operation prior to 1830. All indications are that the mill never produced anything but handmade papers. About 1850 R. L. McDowell and Company remodeled the old grist mill and for ten or more years manufactured paper from straw. The company never had great success because they were involved in constant litigation over water rights. The operation and production of the mill was greatly curtailed by the running of the Langdon Saw Mill just above it. Frequently the sawmill would use up all the water from the upper pond during a heavy period of sawing with its old "up and down" saw. Then it would shut down to let the pond refill and thus the paper mill, being downriver would lose production.

Mr. McDowell retired, and the mill was next operated by a family named Arnold. The facts about the Arnold ownership are little known but the mill evidently failed quickly for lack of capitol.

In 1861 the mill was taken over by a family from Lee by the name of O'Neill with a long history in paper making. They made many improvements and operated the mill until about 1868.

When they took over the property it consisted of the old grist mill which was used as a beater room and obtained its power from a large overshot wheel. The machine room, which was operated by a turbine wheel, was located across the road. The boiler house was a part of the machine room and adjoined the wet end of the machine. Below the boiler house extended the forest from which the wood for fuel was obtained. Fire destroyed the old machine room and a new machine room was rebuilt above and joining the beater room. In their time, the O'Neills started the manufacture of manila paper from rope stock and near the end of their ownership even made some toilet paper. The product of the mill was all drawn by horse team to Great Barrington for shipment by rail to New York City.

After the O'Neills departed Monterey, Wilbur C. Langdon took over operation of the mill. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1897. At the time, the mill was lit by coal oil lamps and it was presumed to be the upset of a lamp that caused the fire. According to eyewitnesses at the time, the fire was most spectacular. An unusually strong wind that night carried lightweight sheets of blazing paper for long distances and illuminated the countryside.

Today one may wander down into Bidwell Park and enjoy the peaceful, tranquil beauty where the foundations can still be seen of the once bustling industry.

During this same period of the early 1800s easements were being made back at the headwaters of the river by several owners whose land surrounded Brewer Pond. They agreed to flow (flood) their land to a height not to exceed two drill holes on the northerly side of a large rock on the land of James Fargo. Today that is known as Bull Head Rock in Parker's Cove. Still in private hands, The Thorn family, great-grandchildren of the Parkers, still own the property. There are even stone walls that can still be found underwater at that end of the lake.

And thus begins a period of leaks in the dams. Mary Steadman, who lived in the center of the village in the pillared house

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## Contributions September 2020

Mark & Joan Abramowitz
Bruce Birchard & Demie Kurz
Bill Enlund
Michelle Kaminsky
Joseph Menker
Natalie Powell
Arthur & Joan Wing

next to the ball field right on the edge of the Konkapot wrote in her personal diary of 1865, "reservoir was raised in the fall of 1875,…broke away in March 22, 1876, also on May 5."

"1888 the reservoir examined by the Selectmen in behalf of the town. They decided that only six feet of water was safe." On another page is recorded, "On April 20, 1891 reservoir sprang a leak and we all went to M.S. Bidwell's and spent the night." That would be Robert and Linda Hebert's house at 6 Tyringham Road today. Apparently, they felt that was high enough above the river should the dam burst completely.

As explained last month, it was during this period that the Derby, Connecticut firm had come this far north seeking to maintain a steady supply of water for their industries. In July and August when the water was low in the Housatonic River, the company would send word to open the gate and let water out. By so doing, the lake would recede and leave the shore with the cottages in a muddy mess.

About 1912, the summer residents staged a drive to collect money to buy the water rights, and in the summer of 1913 a dedication at the dam was held and a marble marker was unveiled. Next time you are at the beach stop and read it.

Much of the information for this article came from Elihu Harmon, 1850-1940 who was a friend and classmate of Frank O'Neill. He also was a witness and knew others who witnessed the mill fire in 1897. Another source of information was "Superior Facts," a bulletin of the paper industry at the time. It is worth noting that the Langdon family had a long history in Monterey and were involved in numerous ventures, including the millworks down the Konkapot.

—Linda Thorpe

## Transfer Station News

### Wine Corks

For several years we have collected wine bottle corks for a non-profit organization. Just recently they gave us a container to put the corks into. (See above.) The corks go to Opportunity Works Connecticut, Inc. It is a non-profit agency that supports people with intellectual and physical disabilities by helping them find meaningful vocational activities and/or gainful employment. The container is located in the cardboard recycling area. So, when you're done with your wine, support this good cause. (To learn more about the agency, go to the Opportunity Works website, owct.org/, look at "About Us" for their programs and projects.

Dave Gilmore

### Hazardous Waste Collection

We are always asked, "What do I do with oil paint and other hazardous items?" In years past there was a hazardous waste collection day several times a year around our area. Last year there was only one and this year it looks like the last one is coming up. It will be held at the Great Barrington recycling center just across from Monument Valley high school on Route 7. It will be held on Saturday, October 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We have copies at the transfer station as to what you can and cannot bring.

The most important thing is you must pre-register, either by going online at tritownhealth.org, or by calling 243-5540. The website also specifies what you can and cannot bring to the collection site.

—Beth Parks and Dave Gilmore

*Bonsai Cox sent in this photo of a bumblebee with full pollen pockets on its legs.*

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# Wildlife Report
## September 2020

Late in August Joe Wasiuk sent a photo (at right) of a big bear out behind Nancy Johnson's house on Elephant Rock Road. Ben Johnson took the photo, but we don't know for sure whether or not this was the same bear that opened a screen door and went right in, earlier in August.

Nancy Ashen writes from Prescott Lane, Monterey, to report three different mammals feasting in a pear tree. Once a night camera was set up, she was able to see two foxes taking pears from lower branches, while a raccoon sat in the upper branches, also eating pears. She saw an opossum, too, with a short tail. The next day the people picked all the pears and that night a fox with two pups, and a raccoon, and an opossum all came back looking in vain for more fruit. Nancy writes, "At one point a fox and raccoon were facing off."

There is at least one Bald Eagle frequenting Lake Garfield, seen by several people. Sheila D'Nodal sent photographs taken around Lake Garfield, including two good ones of the eagle (above and page 15).

Toby Zitsman and his fellow "bird nerd" relatives heard Barred Owls on Eaton Lane and sent a fine photograph (top right). This was a young owl, he says, one not much afraid of humans.

Near Lake Garfield, on Broderick Road, Michael Gemchi took a close-up of a big American Toad (below). He has seen the Bald Eagle, also a Wild Turkey, and, up on Hupi Road, a fox.

Ken Kahn sent a photograph (below) of a perfect sphere of *bryozoa*, or "moss animals," in their jelly-like colony. This one was built by the tiny animals around an anchor rope for the dock and Ken says it is "about the size of a basketball (but much slimier.)"

Maureen Banner saw a small blue-black wasp dragging off a sturdy-looking spider (at right). There are several kinds of wasps that prey upon spiders. The female stings the spider with a neurotoxin that paralyzes it, and then drags it off to a specially-made burrow. Here she lays one egg on the spider, then buries it in the burrow which she covers over so it is inconspicuous. Some wasps even put several dead ants over the burrow, so the ants' formic acid discourages any interference or investigation of the site.

When the wasp egg hatches, the larva feeds upon the spider, which is still nice and fresh since it is still alive. Timing things perfectly, the larva finishes the spider just as it is time to make a cocoon and pupate. The adult spider-wasp emerges from the pupal cocoon ready for a life of sipping flower nectar and hunting for spiders for the next generation. Maureen took a photograph of the successful spider hunt.

Stacy Wallach, who lives near Stevens Pond, sent in the most recent bear sighting, a large Black Bear with two "frisky cubs."

Early in September, Michael and Maureen Banner wrote of a Carolina Wren singing joyfully in the garden, and of fewer and fewer hummingbirds visiting. They also sent word of a friend's sighting of a Grey Fox.

Many of us have noticed the explosion of mushrooms this late summer, even though the weather has been so dry. One kind I am always happy to see, since it is one of the few I feel confident to eat, is the Honey Mushroom. Suddenly they are present in clumps, right along a path where I walk every morning. Now I add them to my breakfast.

Thank you for any news of the Wild!

—Bonner McAllester

528-9385, bonnermca@gmail.com

## God Held Back

"A Jewish teaching says that those who die before the Jewish New Year are the ones God has held back until the last moment because they were needed most and were most righteous. And so it was that RBG died as the sun was setting last night marking the beginning of Rosh Hashanah.

Rest in peace, Ruthie."

—Mary Kate Jordan, from a friend

## Bidwell House Museum

As the weather cools down and the leaves change, we go into fall hopeful and yet cautious. 2020 has been an unusual year for the Bidwell House Museum, as it has been for everyone reading this article. For the first time in our history we did not open the house for tours this summer, most of our onsite events had to be cancelled, and our truncated history talk series had to be moved online. Despite these radical changes from our normal season program, there were a few silver linings:

- We created a new "Outside the House" tour that included a Bidwell History Primer, a map, and a scavenger hunt along with new educational signage on our trails and on our Native American Interpretive Trail.
- We started a new weekly email series called Bidwell Lore that we have used to tell the Bidwell story while educating readers about local history.
- Friends and supporters who live far away were able to attend our online history talks and our online summer party.
- Inspired by a proposal from local resident Joe Makuc and with the help of our gardener Ruth Green, garden intern Charles Annecharico, and former intern Nadia Makuc, we expanded our heritage vegetable garden to grow more fresh vegetables that were then donated to the Great Barrington Food Pantry.

Heather Kowalski

*Bidwell House Museum's heritage vegetable garden later this summer.*

Looking forward, we do not know what to expect this winter or even next season but we are working nonetheless to offer programs throughout the year. For now those programs will be online, which gives us the flexibility to hold a program even when the weather outside is cold and snowy, something that prevented us from doing winter programs in the past. We have a talk coming up this month with Robert Oakes, author of the new book *Ghosts of the Berkshires*, who knows a thing or two about local ghost stories as the former caretaker of the Bidwell House Museum. We are also planning more history talks for this winter and already working to plan our programming for 2021.

To stay up to date on all of our winter activities, check out the events page of our website at bidwellhousemuseum.org/events/, or sign up for our email newsletter using the form at the bottom of the home page on our website.

Don't forget that the grounds and gardens remain open every day from dawn until dusk. Hike the trails, take your dog for a walk, look for birds, and marvel at the beautiful foliage. Once the snows arrive you can even cross-country ski or take a snowshoe hike on the trails. Free trail maps of the grounds can be found on the porch of the house, at the parking kiosk, or they can be downloaded from our website.

Finally, all of the work that we do would not be possible without the strong support of the Monterey residents who tried out our online programs, bought memberships this year, and enthusiastically attended our first online party. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you! The museum is so grateful for the ongoing support of this wonderful community!

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

## In the Midst

A reader, Lee Myers, sent in this inspirational thought:

Albert Camus wrote, "In the midst of hate, I found there was, within me, an invincible love. In the midst of tears, I found there was, within me, an invincible smile. In the midst of chaos, I found there was, within me, an invincible calm. I realized, through it all, that in the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger, something better, pushing right back."

Town Seal by Edith Wilson

## Select Board Corner

The select board did not prepare any information to inform the town for this month.

### MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

— Don Coburn, Chair
Steve Weisz and John Weingold
Monterey Select Board
(don@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(weinjohnsb@gmail.com)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov

*Julie Johnston made this crow-friendly scarecrow, which is now inhabited by a crow!*

## Council on Aging

A large part of the mission of the Monterey Council on Aging is to provide transportation for medical appointments and shopping to the elderly and disabled of our community. To achieve this objective, Monterey has been a part of the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation (SBETC) since its founding in 1984. We have been scrambling to continue this important service since news of SBETC's abrupt closing on September 30. Great Barrington is taking the lead, getting vans, training drivers, getting insurance, etc. We have been working with them to find a long term regional solution, but for the immediate future, the Town of Sheffield has graciously offered to transport any elderly or disabled Monterey residents who need transportation for doctor's appointments or grocery trips. Beginning October 1, if you are in need of transportation, please call the Sheffield Senior Center at least forty-eight hours prior to your appointment at 413-229-7037. Their vans operate Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the cost is $10 per rider, round trip, no charge for extra stops. If you need additional assistance please call the Council on Aging at 413-528-1443, ext. 247.

The Foot Nurse, Beverly Dunn, is still making home visits while the town hall and community center are closed. Please call her at 413-446-2469 to make an appointment.

It's that time of year again! The Berkshire Visiting Nurse Nancy Slattery will be providing a free flu shot clinic on October 8 at the Firehouse pavilion from 2 to 3 p.m. Please bring your Medicare or Mass Health cards. Rain or shine! (I'm not going to say snow.)

— Kyle Pierce
Council on Aging, Chair

## Letters—Gratitude

We need to express our gratitude to the Monterey Police and Fire Departments.

When our car ended up in Lake Garfield in the afternoon on September 25, with Doug at the wheel and me with my mouth agape, I heard someone call out "call 911!" and a response that it was done. They arrived in a matter of minutes.

Laura Rodrigues appeared in front of me moving in the water toward the car. Her calm approach and quick decision to come to our aid is so appreciated!

I used our Boston Whaler we had planned to take out of the lake to get to the car and assist Dougie out while Laura held the boat steady. Peter Grealish had shoved the boat off the shore, and Jane Johnson, Linnea Grealish, and Libby Wolff were there to give me kind words when we returned.

The Southern Berkshire Ambulance Service checked Doug out. After a time to pull ourselves together Tom Ryan drove us home and helped Doug into the house.

How grateful we are to call this town our home.

— Joann Bell and Doug McTavish

*Hummingbird* —*Sheila D'Nodal*

## Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- The email address for the dispatch service is:

  **dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us.**

- Police dispatch service number:

  **413-236-0925**.

- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call:

  **528-3211**

## Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may be sent via email to montereynews9@gmail.com or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. For advertising rates or other information, contact the Editor at 413-528-4007 or email.

## Town Contact Information

**Emergency! 911**
**Administrative Assistant:**
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)
**Assessor:** 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov
**Building Department:** 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov
**Community Center:** 528-3600
calendar@ccmonterey.org
**Fire Department:** (non-emergency): 528-3136
chief@montereyma.org
**Highway Department:** 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov
**Library:** 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com
**Police Department:** (non-emergency) 528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov
**Post Office:** 528-4670
**SBRSD:** (Schools) 413-229-877
**Tax Collector:** 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)
**Town Clerk:** 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

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| Wednesday | 8 a.m.–1 p.m. |
| Saturday | 8 a.m.–1 p.m. |

Winter hours begin on November 1
Sunday 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

## MONTEREY LIBRARY

*Note extended Thursday hours!*

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Wednesday.....2–5 p.m.
Thursday.....4–8 p.m.
Friday.....4–8 p.m.
Saturday..9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
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*Contributions from local artists this month:*
*Maureen Banner, pgs. 7,11;*
*George Emmons, p. 21; Bonner McAllester, p. 18.*

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